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Bangalore Mirror ON SATURDAY

TEMP Max 33 | Min 21 | Humidity 59% Clear with periodic clouds Sensex 62,027 | Nifty 18,314 | Gold 60,869 | Silver 73,281 | Dollar 82.14 | Euro 89.45 | GBP 102.79

Waste management experts say community composting is best way forward to ensure apartment complexes follow BBMP mandate to process wet waste

UNITED WE COMPOST

Time to penalise bulk generators who don't bother about segregation rule

| Rachana Ramesh
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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) mandate to process wet waste produced by bulk generators (those entities who produce more than 100 kg of waste in a day) within their premises (in-situ) is hardly followed, allege Solid Waste Management (SWM) activists in the city. They have urged authorities to implement the rule strictly in order to reduce the burden on landfills and solve the issue of waste at its source.

"Typically, in an urban family, 60-65% of the waste generated on a daily basis is from the kitchen. Community composting is one of the wonderful tools to deal with wet waste, which happens to be the difficult variety of waste to deal with, as it is highly perishable. If not dealt with immediately, it begins to stink and decompose," said Savita Hiremath, author of 'Endlessly Green: Solid Waste Management for Everyone' and a member of the Solid Waste Management Round

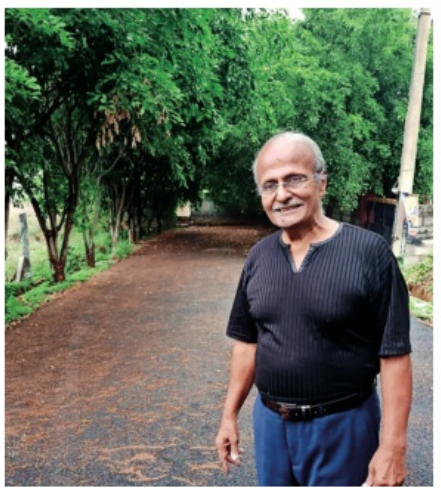
CONTINUED ON PAGE 6 »

"Currently, contractors are given tenders and there is no monitoring on what is being used. If every apartment complex begins to compost, where can it all be used? The BBMP must address it and close the loop

– Shanthi Tummala, project consultant at Saahas

Master gardener

Ex-Armyman plants saplings, nurtures them to paint desolate Turahalli Colony green



| Garima Prasher
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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Back in 2010, when Clement Alberts, a septuagenarian now, decided to build his dream home in Turahalli Colony in Subramanyapura, the area was devoid of green cover. Having retired from the armed forces, Alberts decided it was his time to give back to the environment and Bengaluru city.

The state-level weightlifting champion planted 60 saplings in the area over one year. As many as 40 of them are now full-grown trees. Alberts says he is reaping the benefits of his hard work.

"There was not even a single tree in the surrounding and the place wore a deserted look. I planted 60 saplings and tended to them for years to come. Today they are of age and providing the much-needed green cover and respite from the scorching summer," says the 76-year-old Bengalurean. The Honge trees, according to Alberts, have guarded him from the scorching summer heat.

It all began after Clement associated himself with a not-for-profit organisation

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12 »

3 THINGS TO DO

01 Tune in!

Catch a special podcast of Stalwarts Of Music with Aditya Veera ft. Julian Marley (Son of Bob Marley) & special guest Delhi Sultanate on Sunday. The podcast interviews famous musicians and explores their careers, influences, and creative processes and is a must for all music lovers.
Where: Instagram Live (@adix70)
When: May 14, 6:30pm

02 Textured art

Looking to spend some quality time on the weekend? Come and experience the trending Texture Art! This is a fun and creative activity that you can enjoy with friends or family. It's the perfect opportunity to relax, unwind, and explore your creativity. Take home your own unique creation and cherish the memories you made during this special weekend activity.
Where: Atta Galatta
When: May 13, 5PM- 7PM
Tickets: https://in.bookmyshow.com

03 Stories and more

Attend a workshop by acclaimed writers Jahnavi Barua and Shinie Antony on what makes good fiction. What goes into making a story? Beginnings and endings, protagonist and antagonist, conflict and resolution, the art and the craft... Acclaimed writers Jahnavi Barua and Shinie Antony take everyone through writing, editing, and a lot, lot more in this workshop. Let's have fun with the fundamentals of fiction.
Where: Atta Galatta
When: May 13, 3PM- 5PM
Tickets: https://in.bookmyshow.com

RABID, NO MORE

Number of dogs infected with rabies witnesses sharp decline from 2020; decrease attributed to consistent vaccination of streeties over the years

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The number of dogs infected with the rabies virus in Bengaluru has seen a sharp decline since 2020. According to data provided by the Veterinary College, Hebbal, the documented occurrence of rabies in dogs within Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) limits has gone down over the last four years.

While the institute documented 258 rabies cases in 2020, this number went down to 228 in 2021, 119 in 2022, and only 42 cases of rabies in dogs have been recorded till April this year.

According to the BBMP's Animal Husbandry Department officials, there is a direct correlation between the Anti Rabies Vaccination (ARV) drive and the number of rabies cases.

"We have taken up the Anti Rabies Vaccination (ARV) drive in the city and it is being carried out at ward level. We have conducted studies in the past that have shown that ARV drive has been effective based on the immune system response of street dogs. showing it has been effective. There is a direct correlation between ARV and the number of rabies cases. We have to reach the goal of zero rabies mission by 2030 and we are working towards that," said Dr Trilok Chandra, special commissioner (health), BBMP.

The Anti Rabies Vaccination Drive has contributed to cases decreasing

BangaloreMirror
STRAYING HAPPY

Our May 10 story reported how a major chunk of streeties are now rabies-free

The zone-wise data also shows that while the number of rabies cases in stray dogs has gone down overall since 2016, the highest number of cases have been reported from Bengaluru East (23 per cent), followed by Mahadevapura (19 per cent) and Yelahanka (11 per cent).

"Mahadevapura has cross-border issues. There is a lot of cross-movement of dogs from rural areas. Since immunisation is not happening in those areas, the number of cases has been high. However, Bengaluru East is a confined zone, and we need to dig deeper to understand the reason behind high rabies cases in this zone," added Dr Chandra.

City-based animal welfare activists and experts say the situation can be further improved by beefing up the ward-level checks of unvaccinated dogs and ensuring not even a single street dog is susceptible to the virus.

"It is time to intensify the ward-wise vaccination drive. While we are moving in the right direction, we must ensure that no dog is left out. BBMP can involve feeders and animal welfare workers in their areas to achieve a higher rate of vaccination. BBMP has thrown open the door of upcoming dog census to animal welfare organisations and workers and this will help the civic agency in achieving their target sooner than ever," said Sudha Narayanan, founder trustee of CARE, an animal welfare organisation running BBMP's 24*7 rabies helpline.

> **"Mahadevapura has cross-border issues. There is a lot of cross-movement of dogs from rural reas**
>
> –Dr Trilok Chandra, special commissioner (health), BBMP

Kerala murder: City docs rally for justice

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Members of the medical fraternity in Karnataka have started a candlelight march as a mark of solidarity for the 23-year-old female doctor who was brutally stabbed to death in Kerala. The doctors also want the Kerala government to take action against the perpetrator.

Doctors from Bangalore Medical College and Research Institute carried out a candlelight march on Thursday. The marched from Victoria hospital to BMRCI and reached Minto Hospital.

The Karnataka Association of Resident Doctors (KARD) condemned the act and the doctors stated that they will stand united against any violence or harassment caused to the doctors.

Dr Sirish, In-charge, President of KARD said, "The medical community across the nation has been shaken by the tragic incident. It takes years of efforts and many sacrifices to become a doctor and a loss of such a young doctor is unacceptable. These repeated acts not only threaten the medical fraternity but also discourage the upcoming talent from taking up the medical profession."

City doctors hold a candelight vigil in solidarity with the young woman murdered in Kerala

They said they want the government of Kerala to investigate the matter and take immediate action against the culprit.

Even resident doctors of NIMHANS have come forward to protest against the gruesome murder and did a candlelight march on Friday.

"We condemn such a horrific act. She was brutally stabbed multiple times leading to her untimely and unfortunate demise on May 10. We demand strict action on the assailant and request the Government of Kerala to take urgent and stringent action on the assailant and ensure strict punishment. The assailant was under custody, and was brought by police personnel.

"Strict action has to be taken against the personnel who could not protect the doctor at that moment," said resident doctors from NIMHANS.

The doctors pointed out that violence against doctors needs to be curbed with strong legal deterrents and it should be recognized as distinct crime at both state and national level across the nation.

The doctors demanded early implementation of Central Protection Act for prevention of violence against doctors and healthcare personnel across India.

Rain check: Drained out

City rajakaluves can only withstand 60-70 mm of rainfall, anything excess will spell trouble

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With less than a month to go before the arrival of the southwest monsoon, Bengalureans are already facing jitters with the pre-monsoon showers as many roads and localities are getting flooded. Now, the big question is how well Bengaluru is prepared to tackle the monsoon rainfall, especially after last year's deluge. BBMP officials say that although the desilting of drains is underway, the rajakaluves and other drains can withstand rainfall only up to 60 to 70 mm, and beyond that, there is always a fear of flooding.

BBMP Chief Commissioner Tushar Giri Nath said, "We have been taking up clearing of rajakaluves. As of now, the drains can withstand rainfall up to 60 to 70 mm. However, if there is excess rainfall in the range of 100 or 120 mm, then we need to see how to tackle it." The Karnataka State Natural Disaster Monitoring Centre (KSNDMC) had earlier sent a report to the BBMP identifying 226 locations in the city that were prone to flooding during rainfall. According to the report, even just one centimetre of rainfall could cause flooding in some areas. The report had classified the areas into different zones based on the impact of rainfall.

This was the scene on RV Road at Basavanagudi just a few days ago after a spell of rain

Reacting to this, Nath said, "We are already attending to the KSNDMC report. There are four to five places like Hosakerehalli where we are facing issues. Around three engineers from the stormwater drain and lake division have been pressed into service. We are now coordinating with the traffic police to fix the locations that are prone to flood. Currently, there are only 15 to 20 locations left.

We will try to fix them as far as possible, failing which we will have to depend on water pumps to flush out the water in case of flooding." He said that the encroachment removal works were also delayed due to a court stay, and BBMP was appealing for vacation of the stay. The BBMP officials were also planning to acquire private properties required for the free flow of water by paying compensation if required.

Activists are already taking a dig at the civic agency for not attending to people's problems. "This year, we have already had instances where a few of the localities were flooded. Though we didn't have any major rainfall like last year, the current spell of rains has exposed the City's infrastructure. So, it is time for the BBMP to pull up its socks and act quickly," said Suresh K, an activist. Meanwhile, the BBMP officials said that they have been acting swiftly on the KSNDMC report, which had provided the exact location of the places with geolocation, so that the BBMP can take action.

Brace for hotter days

Meanwhile, the Met department has predicted that dry weather is likely to prevail over the BBMP area for the next few days, with maximum and minimum temperatures likely to be around 34 and 23 degrees Celsius, respectively. A weather report issued by the Met department said that there is unlikely to be any major impact on city weather due to the very severe cyclonic storm Mocha.

Protests confined: Set our voice free

Activists wonder if new govt will do anything about right to protest peacefully at different sites

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Activists of the city have one request to the new government – to allow protests outside of the boundaries of Freedom Park. Currently, since the state government passed the Licensing and Regulation of Protests, Demonstrations and Protest Marches (Bengaluru City) Order, 2021 in January 2022, it is illegal to protest anywhere but in the premises of Freedom Park.

The order was enacted as a suo moto Karnataka High Court public interest litigation (PIL) launched in March 2021 sought "unobstructed vehicular traffic".

Vinay Sreenivasa from the Alternative Law Forum (ALF) said there was a possibility to prevent this order. "When the high court was passing the order, the government could have intervened and said that it (high court) would be curbing the fundamental rights of citizens, but it did nothing of that sort.

Even now, the government can bring in a law overruling the high court judgment," he said, adding that the current order is a violation of the right to assembly, and freedom of speech and expression. "In the name of traffic, you cannot curtail all protests. In fact, many protests do not affect traffic at all.

On the other hand, road shows such as the recent one involving the Prime Minister, must not be entertained," he said.

In February, the Sadashivanagar police booked 70 citizens, who participated in a walk to peacefully register their resistance to the proposed Sankey Road flyover and widening project, in a criminal case. Krishna Panyam, one of the citizens who participated in the walk, said recalling the event, "We were not even holding placards or raising slogans. We were walking on the footpath without any obstruction. Protests that do not cause inconvenience to others must be allowed."

File photo of a protest by crematorium workers at Freedom Park

He noted that the current order is restrictive and unrealistic, and works only when causes are able to mobilise large crowds, in turn drawing media attention.

"For example, the farmers protesting at Devanahalli. The police may even designate them a separate spot to protest but what is the point if it is not visible? It (protest) is a means to make other people aware of what is going on," he said.

"You have made half the point by showing up at the site to create awareness. When one protests on a site, you engage with those who may even have an opposing view but it creates a space for discussion. As long as the protest is not causing conflict and obstruction, they must be allowed as it is our fundamental right – to gather and express ourselves freely," he explained.

Aratrika, a member of All India Students Association (AISA) often seen expressing solidarity with the many protests that take place in the city, called it a direct attack on democratic rights of Bengalureans. "This shows a trend of confining protests to small areas as was also seen in Delhi.

A state's outlook towards protests shows its character. In this case, we see a fascist character exemplified through curtailing all democratic spaces. Now, Freedom Park is reduced to a protest carnival with tens of stalls and passersby not being affected by anything."

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REARVIEW MIRROR

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On urban alienation

Today is a critical day as it shall chart the course for the next five years of the metropolis, brimming with ambition of the country's youth in their millions.

To accommodate the scale of this ambition Bengaluru must equip itself better. The policies that will lead to the holistic and timely betterment of the urban scape, however, is nowhere to be seen let alone intent.

Whoever wins the assembly election and comes to power, the most important thing to do is to salvage Bengaluru from the brink — set the metropolis free from the terrifying grip of corruption in the way of better infra and ruination that has taken root as a result.

Perhaps by the time you read this, dear reader, a clear winner in the assembly polls would emerge or signs to which or what combination of the three parties shall - the BJP, Congress and JD(S) - hold the key to unleashing the potential of this urban settlement in the coming five-year span.

However, the week saw a bizarre culmination of a charged up and tumultuous election campaign — or rather a desperate scramble for power — and subsequent polling in the most crucial assembly election of 2023. The result will set the stage for 2024 Lok Sabha. However, the political grandiloquence of utter disconnect ignored the citizens residing in this geography, especially the Bengalurean.

The most bizarre fact is, Bengaluru is still awaiting a city council two years on. What a peculiar situation in the history of a city, supposedly the centre of all activity, but the least is done to ensure that it has the elbow room to negotiate and navigate through the challenges of the times: infrastructural, social, cultural and most importantly the ecological and environmental conundrum that we are facing at present due to the climate emergency.

So much for policy jargons such as smart city, mobility, flood proofing, cycling to work, first/last mile connectivity, better infra for health and education and so on. Well, how smart is Bengaluru is clearly visible to all; the issues that were plaguing the metropolis a decade ago are still tormenting it a decade later. The only difference is in scale where tens of millions of people have arrived in Bengaluru from all parts of the country in the past decade.

Furthermore, it is perplexing that barring a few references in the broad strokes here and there, there was not much said during the hustings when the most critical part of the economy for Karnataka is centred around this urban centre often called the tech city, garden city, city of lakes and so forth. The economic future of Karnataka and perhaps even south India depends on the development of Bengaluru, taking into account and remedying at the earliest the challenges that have rendered the city in an infrastructural limbo or saturation point if you will, is the fact that was not taken note of in earnest by political parties vying for power in the state.

When you refer to the present challenges, setting up of the city council, immediate salvaging of an already collapsing infrastructure, reining in haphazard urban development, fixing the festering disharmony of civic agencies and striking at the root of corruption, to say the least, are paramount. That the fallout of the climate crisis looms large over any future plan is a primary challenge.

From newly laid roads coming off in flakes of asphalt soon after dignitary visits, soup-bowl shaped lakes that are now a toxic brew of city's effluents, mounting ineptitude leaving mounds of solid waste unattended, underpaid civic staff often protesting for fair treatment and better wages, crumbling roads and footpaths that are encroached — the list grows if one is to think of issues that need urgent redressal; but fact remains still there isn't any urgency or even talk of constituting a city council.

In fact, it would rather suit the powers that be if it could be prolonged: Bengaluru without a council. How absurd does it sound when - the single most important factor - Bengaluru - is blatantly ignored on the campaign trail.

The youngest urban conglomeration that has immense potential to ready India for what's coming - the tsunami of forced technological disruptions surrounding so-called artificial intelligence that the global south cannot afford to ignore and is left with no choice than to adopt.

But, thousands of workers in leading tech firms in Bengaluru are already laid off. What is the long-term solution to cushion the demographic in the most populous nation? It seems we are still stuck in the petty othering of fellow Indians as election manifestos set us back to the dark ages. How's the uniform civil code or a national register of citizens going to help Bengaluru to be a future-ready city?

Suburban rail: KRIDE, Air Force ink land deal

KRIDE signs MoU for land at Jalahalli; gets permission to build boundary wall too

Work has commenced on construction of minor bridges, an official said

Despite the long delay, officials claim that there is forward movement in the Bengaluru Suburban railway project. The corridor-2 line (Mallige line) of around 25.2 km from Benniganahalli to Chikkabanavara, currently underway is being executed first.

An official from the Bengaluru Suburban railway said, "We have successfully transitioned from the drawing board to the execution phase. One of the major stumbling blocks, defence land at multiple locations, including Banaswadi Garrison, Air Force Jalahalli, and CQAE Yeshwantpur are aligned along this corridor. Air Force authorities on Friday signed a MoU with us to hand over land at Air Force Jalahalli location and also granted permission for boundary wall construction at Jalahalli."

Officials said that the construction project involving land acquisition, boundary wall construction, and various other preliminary works such as survey works, geotechnical investigation, and ground penetration report (GPR) has been completed. "The establishment of the batching plant is underway at three locations, including Jalahalli, Hebbal, and Benniganahalli, with the Jalahalli batching plant expected to commence operation soon. The land for the casting yard has been identified and finalised, with preliminary activities underway. The land for the casting yard was identified and finalised by the contractor and preliminary activities at the casting yard are underway.

The Environment and Social Impact Assessment (EIA & SIA) study has been completed.

Test pile at two locations near Hebbal and Yeshwantpur has been completed and testing activities are in progress and will be conducted in the coming week," said an official.

> **"We have successfully transitioned from the drawing board to the execution phase**
>
> –Bengaluru Suburban rail official

As of now, the railway land of 157 acres for Corridor -2 has also been handed over to KRIDE. Private land acquisition of 5.11 acres has also been concluded. "The government land of 2.72 acre of LIDKAR, BWSSB, and KVAFSU has been handed over to KRIDE. However, 5.01 acres of BDA land is yet to be handed over for the project. This project also involves the relocation of various Indian Railway buildings and facilities, including the Indian Railways Parcel office, SSE Office, and substation. Permission for the same has also been granted in principle by south western railways," said the official.

The official added that the KIADB has already commenced disbursement of compensation to the impacted residents of buildings to be demolished. Work on minor bridges has already commenced between the Chikkabanavara and Yeshwanthpur section.

A joint site visit has been conducted with various utility-owning authorities like GAIL, BBMP, and BWSSB for the diversion of utilities. Around 100% shifting work of signaling and telecommunication utilities has been completed. Electrical utility shifting is in progress.

"Minor bridge construction activities are taken up at the priority section, work has commenced on three minor bridges and top slabs of two bridges will be ready by the next week. Traffic diversion plans for various locations have been submitted to the Commissioner of Traffic Police. Tenders for Station Building for construction of 12 stations on EPC mode and detailed design consultancy tender for two depots will be invited shortly," said the official. —BMB

CBSE Class 12 results: B'luru comes second

Bengaluru region scored second in the all-India CBSE Class 12 exams for which results were declared on Friday. As per the data shared by CBSE, Thiruvananthapuram stood first with 99.91% pass percentage, followed by Bengaluru (98.64%), while Chennai was third with 97.4% and Delhi West at fourth with 93.24%. Surprisingly no student pulled off a perfect score in the exams this year.

Board's Controller of Examination Dr Sanyam Bhardwaj said that the performance of every student was satisfactory. "In the past three years, we saw lots of problems, but this year, the results show that we are returning to normalcy. Now there would be similar kinds of facilities where the student will be able to learn more in the school itself. So again this year more than 22 lakh students appeared in the examinations and they performed very well. The pass percentage is over 93%. And if we compare it with the 2019 examination, pre-pandemic, then also there is nearly 2% improvement in the results."

The CBSE official added that if a student didn't clear two subjects, they can sit for a supplementary exam. "Supplementary examination will be conducted in July this year," he added. —BMB

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Sanjayanagara's big sigh of relief

HAL authorities remove garbage accumulating on vacant site in Marathahalli

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KAUSHIK JN

HAL authorities claim that residents living in and around Sanjayanagara have been dumping waste at this vacant site

"We cannot clear such a huge pile of garbage. I will ensure that auto tippers visit the spot regularly. I will instruct my subordinates to clear trash along the compound wall – Mamatha A, BBMP

Residents of Sanjayanagara in Marathahalli ward are happy with the measures taken by the Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) authorities to remove garbage accumulated at a vacant HAL land. The residents want to thank the authorities for commencing the clearing of garbage which had become an eyesore and health hazard for them.

On May 8, Bangalore Mirror published a story titled 'As rubbish piles, the plot thickens', narrating how the vacant site had become a dumping ground for all types of garbage.

The residents want the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) authorities or the HAL authorities to post one or two guards at the site to prevent people from throwing garbage on the land. "I am very happy to see HAL authorities engaging workers to clear heaps of garbage from the vacant land. The HAL authorities cleared the accumulated garbage a few years ago, but irresponsible people continue to throw garbage on the land," said Muniraju S, a resident.

The removal of garbage from the vacant land is in progress, and residents, especially those residing near the land, heaved a sigh of relief. They want the BBMP authorities to post two or three BBMP Marshals, not only to create awareness but also to penalise those responsible for dumping garbage in the first place.

"I know it is not easy to keep a vigil on those dumping garbage, but the presence of BBMP Marshals will make a big difference. I appeal to the BBMP authorities to do something to ensure this place is free from trash," said a homemaker residing near the land.

Meanwhile, BBMP Solid Waste Management Assistant Executive Engineer Mamatha A said that she is very happy to know that HAL authorities have taken measures to clear garbage.

"We cannot clear such a huge pile of garbage. I will ensure that garbage auto tippers visit the spot regularly. I will instruct my subordinates to take measures to clear garbage along the compound wall on a daily basis," she said.

The HAL Estates Officer said that the clearing of garbage has begun.

"I want to make it clear that HAL is not responsible for dumping garbage. It is the residents around the vacant land who dump waste in the land. We are taking measures to fill up the openings made at the compound wall to prevent people from entering the vacant land," said the officer.

Bangalore Mirror
Vacant land belonging to HAL has turned into a dumping spot for all types of garbage. Old furniture, plastic, clothes — pretty much all waste in vicinity ends up here
AS RUBBISH PILES, THE PLOT THICKENS
Trash has caught fire multiple times too. BBMP suggests HAL fence its property

BM's report on May 8 spoke about the area becoming a dump for all kinds of waste

Do something about wet waste

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Table (SWMRT). She explained that community composting requires an individual to merely ensure segregation at source while the rest of the responsibility is divided among the community.

While a few bulk generators may have space constraints to carry out composting within their premises, Savita said that there are numerous ways, such as installing a lane composting system (where a cluster of homes can put together 2-3 composters in a single lane), which can be accommodated in nooks and corners. One can also seek assistance from empanelled vendors who will process the waste elsewhere if the bulk generator does not have enough space to process it by themselves, she added. Savita noted that the BBMP does not carry out routine checks of the mandate, allowing many to flout the rules and called for the authorities to incentivise those who are following it to further boost their behaviour.

"The BBMP allows for off site in case of space constraints, but the question that needs to be answered is who will determine the lack of space for in-situ compositing?" said Pinky Chandran, researcher and member of SWMRT. She noted that when systems are set up by apartment complexes, disputes often arise among owners who shut down the composting system and stressed on the need for BBMP to come up with a measure to resolve such issues. Along with this, she added that the vendor empanelment needs to be streamlined and a list of bulk generators needs to be kept updated.

Dr Shanthi Tummala, project consultant at Saahas and a sustainability expert, also said that the BBMP is currently not enforcing the rule. "With the notification, we are encouraging apartment complexes to take up composting but the BBMP needs to enforce it – come up with a procedure where the complexes are given a time span of six months to begin composting or else they are penalised. If this is not done, people will not follow the rule," she said. She noted that right now only conscious citizens who have a leaning towards sustainability are practising composting and encouraging those around them to practise the same.

At the same time, Dr Tummala noted that if a majority of bulk generators begin to follow the rule, the BBMP should be willing to buy the compost at a minimum price. "The BBMP can either enrich the compost with other materials and further sell it to local farmers and urban gardeners, or they must pass an order mandating the horticulture wing (who take care of the parks) to buy their compost from bulk generators composting their waste. Currently, contractors are given tenders and there is no monitoring on what is being used. If every apartment complex begins to compost, where can it all be used? The BBMP must address it and close the loop," she said.

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Nandini Layout

A dangerously open live junction kiosk is located on the 22nd Main Road in Srinivasa Nagar, Nandini Layout.

Clear the mess
Kasturba crossroad

Construction materials left by a builder have been lying at the public parking in Kasturba crossroad since January.

Cement it
Jayanagar

Due to rain, a lorry was stuck at the junction of 38th cross and 4th main road in Jayanagar 5th block. The spot requires cementing work.

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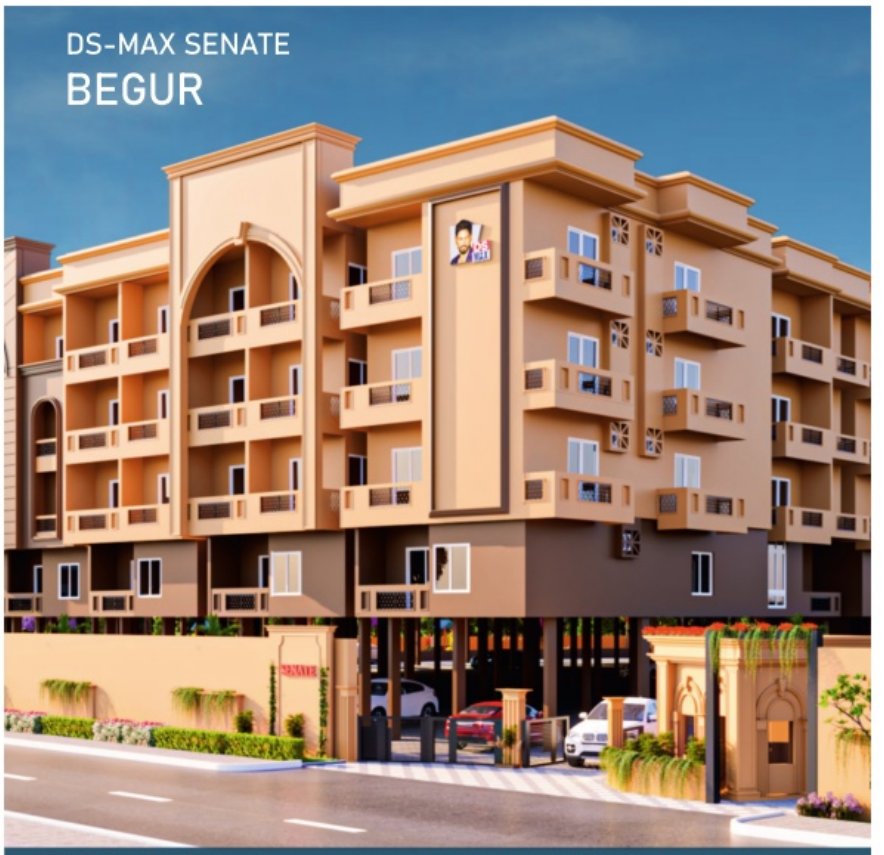

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Saturday suspense

A number of scenarios are possible based on how the mandate favours parties

| Sridhar.Vivan
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Saturday will decide the fate of MLA aspirants who are set to rule the state for the next five years. By afternoon, it is likely to be clear as to which party has the mandate of the people.

If one goes by the exit polls, a majority of them have pointed out that the Congress party had an edge though a few predicted a hung assembly. These are the different political scenarios which could unfold based on the results.

Security personnel deployed outside strong rooms at St Joseph's School

Congress victory

As a majority of the exit polls have predicted an edge for Congress, the party is hopeful of reaching the magic number of 113. If the Congress is able to cross the magic number on its own, then the party will have another challenge in choosing the CM candidate. Both Leader of Opposition in the previous Assembly Siddaramaiah and KPCC president DK Shivakumar have already expressed their intent of taking over the mantle. The Congress high command will take a call as both the leaders have considerable support among the Congress candidates. Sources said the Congress party's High Command may go for a middle path where both the leaders may share the CM's post by turns to maintain the balance.

BJP victory

If the BJP wins, it will be the first time they win back to back in the state in recent times. However, if they lose, then the saffron party will lose a major base in south India.

It will also be a litmus test for these leaders whether their charisma has worked in state elections or not. Though BJP leaders have said that if the party wins the elections, incumbent CM Basavaraj S Bommai may get another term though there may be many other challengers.

JD(S) victory

The big question is whether the regional party will be a king or a kingmaker. Former CM HD Kumaraswamy who is the sole CM face of the party has been campaigning for a full majority for the party. For decades, the JD(S) has failed to get a majority on its own and now it needs to be seen if the party can win this time. If the party fails to get the required numbers (as it lacks a base in coastal Karnataka and other pockets), then the party may clearly play a kingmaker.

Hung Assembly

As a few exit polls have predicted a hung assembly, the support of JD(S) will be crucial. The JD(S) has aligned with Congress and BJP in the past. The JD(S) had earlier extended support to Dharam Singh when the party had nominated Siddaramaiah and later MP Prakash as deputy CMs.

However, since then, JD(S) has sought the CM's post when HD Kumaraswamy was CM for the first time in BJP-JD(S) coalition, and then Kumaraswamy was offered CM's post in 2018 when Congress supported the party to keep the BJP out. Both the coalition governments ended in a bitter fight. The question is whether the political parties bury the hatchet to join hands to keep the other party out. During the previous elections, the parties engineered defections when they couldn't get a majority on their own. Though the parties are claiming that they won't poach other MLAs, such possibilities cannot be ruled out.

POLL VAULT

Trailer of 2024

Many consider Karnataka Assembly polls as the semi-finals before the next year's Lok Sabha polls.

During the previous Lok Sabha polls, BJP had managed to win 25 out of 28 parliamentary seats from Karnataka and the saffron party is hoping for another landslide victory in the state. Hence it wants the 'double engine' government. However, if Congress or JD(S) takes over the mantle, both parties will try to leverage more support before the parliamentary polls so that it can send its representatives to Delhi.

BJP top brass hold meeting

A day before the counting of votes for the Karnataka Assembly elections, Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai on Friday held a key meeting with top BJP leaders from the state.

Former Karnataka Chief Minister BS Yediyurappa on Thursday expressed confidence that the BJP would secure an absolute majority and return to power for a second term.

Bommai also said that the BJP will come to powear with a "comfortable majority" as he was confident with the party's ground reports.

On a question about forming an alliance with JD(S), in case the party falls short of a majority, he said, "At that time, national leadership is going to take a decision. I am certain that the party will get 115-117 seats."

Karnataka Congress president DK Shivakumar on Wednesday said he did not believe in the exit poll results. "I don't believe these numbers. I stand by my assessment, that we will win more than 146 seat," he said.

JD(S) national spokesperson Tanveer Ahmed on Friday said that they have already decided which party they would support in forming the government after the results are declared. **IANS**

Congress secures candidates

Taking no chances with the BJP's operation lotus in Karnataka, the Congress has directed its candidates to reach Bengaluru and stay at a particular place until the government is formed.

Karnataka Congress President DK Shivakumar, state in-charge Randeep Singh Surjewala and leader of Opposition Siddaramaiah held virtual meetings with all candidates on Thursday night and spoke to them in detail on how they should not become victims of operation lotus. **IANS**

JD(S) mulls strategies

With national parties – Congress and BJP – allegedly preparing to poach MLAs and making strategies to hijack them before the counting, JD(S) is concerned about keeping its flock together. Former Prime Minister HD Deve Gowda is personally strategising and his son, former CM HD Kumaraswamy is operating and closely monitoring the situation in the state from Singapore. Kumaraswamy had flown to Singapore after the polling for relaxation. **IANS**

Election work over but no payment yet

| Melvin Mathew
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The ASHA workers' union has alleged that in addition to not getting paid for the past three months, they haven't received honorariums for the election duty work.

To aid voters coming to the booth, nearly 35,000 ASHA works were deployed across Karnataka. While some ASHA workers working as booth level officers (BLO) are getting paid, this year, there seems to be confusion over the payment for the remaining ASHA workers.

ASHA Karyakarthara Sangha state general secretary D Nagalakshmi, said, "In the past, at local body elections, each ASHA worker used to receive Rs 700 as honorarium. This time as well ASHA workers were deployed for distributing ORS, emergency health work, etc across districts. There was direction from Health Department to be at the booths from 7 am- 6 pm. When we informed district officers to release honorariums but we were told that there was a fund crunch. We also approached the district election officers and they also complained about the fund crunch."

The union met the CEO of Karnataka and the officers orally assured the union of releasing payments immediately.

"Our ASHA workers worked the whole day based on the incentive and honorariums promised. ASHA workers who wouldn't turn up for election duty were threatened to be removed from service," she added.

ASHA workers were deployed to aid voters at polling booths

In Karnataka, there are 42,000 ASHA workers, out of which, nearly 35,000 were deployed for election day on May 10. The union alleged that ASHA workers took part in distributing pamphlets and rallies even before the elections and haven't been promised any compensation.

An ASHA worker deployed at the Avalahalli booth said, "At the booth, we had to assist in managing queues, helping differently abled voters. We aren't aware of any honorarium for the work yet," said Saubhagya S.

Additionally, ASHA workers haven't received honorariums from the central and state government for the past three months. "We have been told that there are some glitches in the payment process and it would be fixed after reinstating of the new government," she added.

ASHA workers primarily are focused on the well-being of women, especially pregnant women. ASHA workers are tasked with ensuring pregnant women get institutional delivery and follow-up visits for the child up to the age of 3. They are tasked with ensuring the nutritional requirement and health of the child. Workers also conduct surveys and health awareness in districts.

ASHA workers are planning to conduct a state-wide strike if the payments fail to reach them by May 13.

However, election officers say that there is no fund crunch. "There is no fund crunch and funds have been released. We haven't received any complaints," said a senior election officer.

Ashes to ashes, dust to dust

Karnataka stands in 13th position in terms of utilising generated fly ash; experts consider it major air pollutant in environment

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CPCB studied 200 thermal power plants across the country, including seven in Karnataka

A substantial amount of fly ash generated by thermal power plants (TPPs) in Karnataka is not being utilised, according to a recent report on fly ash generation by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB).

The pollution watchdog studied 200 thermal power plants across the country, including seven in Karnataka. Between April 2021 and March 2022, while these seven TPPs generated 9.5 GW of electricity, a total of 6.69 million tonnes of fly ash were produced as well. Out of this, 5.4 million tonnes was utilised, and the remaining 1.26 million tonnes of this hazardous waste are left in the environment.

The majority of fly ash produced (3.73 million tonnes) was utilised in the cement industry, followed by the manufacturing of fly ash-based bricks, blocks, and tiles (1.44 million tonnes), part replacement of cement in concrete (nearly 0.05 million tonnes), and construction of highways, roads, and flyovers (a meagre 0.003 million tonnes).

Out of the 17 states that were included in the report, Karnataka stood in the 13th position in terms of percentage utilisation of fly ash generated.

> **“Fly ash emits a small amount of PM 2.5 and higher levels of PM 10 and total suspended particulate matter. PM 2.5 is more harmful** –Gurfan Baig, NIAS

To reduce the requirement for land for the disposal of fly ash in the ash ponds and to address the problem of pollution caused by fly ash, the Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF) has issued multiple notifications on fly ash utilisation, with an amended notification in 2009 prescribing the targets of fly ash utilisation in a phased manner for all coal or lignite-based TPPs in the country to achieve 100% utilisation of fly ash.

As per the notification, TPPs in operation before the date of the notification were to achieve the target in successive five years: 50% in the first year; 60% in the second year; 75% in the third year; 90% in the fourth year; and 100% in the fifth year from the date of notification.

Environment researchers and experts say fly ash is a major air pollutant in the environment and contributes to particulate matter (PM 2.5 and PM 10) emissions.

According to a recent study conducted by researchers from the National Institute of Advanced Studies (NIAS), Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Campus, Bengaluru, and Utkal University, Bhubaneswar, coal combustion releases blackish-grey coloured fly ash waste, which is one of the most imperative sources of radioactive elements such as radium, thorium, potassium, and uranium.

Furthermore, it said that continuous exposure to fly ash in the environment can lead to chronic health issues such as lung cancer, larynx, and bladder cancer.

“Fly ash emits a small amount of PM 2.5 and higher levels of PM 10 and total suspended particulate matter. While PM 2.5 is believed to be more harmful due to its smaller size, OM 10 and suspended particles can irritate the upper respiratory system and cause allergies. Having said that, our recent research on fly ash as a source of radioactive elements is the most worrying aspect,” said Dr Gurfan Baig, professor at the NIAS, IISc campus.

More effective and safe utilisation of fly ash can minimise the hazardous effects of radionuclide emissions, added Baig.

NATION

Pvt offices can serve beer, wine in Haryana

Corporate offices in Haryana can serve low-content alcohol drinks like beer and wine among employees and guests from June 12.

The new excise policy for this fiscal allows possession and consumption of beer, wine and ready-to-drink beverages by the employees in an office with at least 5,000 employees and a minimum covered area of one lakh-square feet in single premises, self-owned or leased.

The policy discontinued the use of PET bottles for liquor, said the policy approved this week by the Cabinet headed by Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar.

“The retail permit fee has been imposed in the new policy with a targeted collection of Rs 400 crore. The said amount will be utilised for the environment and animal welfare,” an official statement said.

Regarding the provisions for procuring liquor licence in the corporate offices, the minimum area of canteen or eatery in the office is not less than 2,000-square feet. “The procedure for grant of licence (L-10F) shall be as applicable to the bar licences. The licence shall be granted on payment of an annual fixed fee of Rs 10 lakh on terms and conditions specified by the excise and taxation commissioner,” said the policy.

The licence fee for the pub category for the consumption of beer and wine only has been reduced further.

To curb pilferage of liquor by wholesale licensees, the penalty provisions have been made stringent and there will be a complete ban on liquor promotion advertisements on various platforms by the licensee, including on social media as well.

In the new policy, the limit of the maximum number of retail liquor vends in the state has been reduced successively from 2,500 to 2,400 in 2023-24. In 2022-23 it was reduced from 2,600 to 2,500.

IANS

As violence rages, Manipur activist reaches B’luru

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During the first week of May, Manipur faced extensive violence across different regions as armed groups intentionally set houses on fire. Multiple areas, notably the Imphal Valley, where the Meitei community resides predominantly, suffered significant destruction of numerous homes. Meanwhile, a citizen of Manipur, Rohan Philem, an activist, reached Bengaluru and came forward to spread awareness on the incident and to seek help for the Manipuris in providing them relief material.

According to reports, over 1,700 houses were burned, 60 people died during the violence, and more than 250 people have been injured. Thousands of people fled from their homes to the state border to escape the mobs. The violence was reported in several districts like Churachandpur, Imphal East, Imphal West, Bishnupur, Tengnoupal, and Kangpokpi.

The violence in Manipur began on May 3 after thousands participated in a protest march organised by the All Tribal Students’ Union of Manipur to oppose the demand of the Meitei community to be included in the Scheduled Tribe category.

Philem, in 2018, set out on a mission to travel for 17,000 km, reaching different states, to create awareness on humane and environmental issues that the people suffered in Manipur. When covid-19 hit, he even launched a campaign to feed the hungry. During the lockdown restrictions, he and his friends joined hands and distributed food kits to the homeless and needy, even until 2022, for those who needed them.

In October 2022, he started a campaign to ride across the country on his electric vehicle to different states. However, since the first week of May witnessed violence in Manipur, he reached Bengaluru and created awareness to help the people of Manipur by providing relief materials to those who had lost their homes.

Philem said, “Many organisations have started to provide relief materials for the displaced people at various relief camps. But it is not enough, and more help needs to be given. The relief materials that we require are essentially food kits, like rice, grain, oil, and salt. Many of my near and dear ones are affected by the violence. As I was out on a mission to raise awareness through e-bike on pollution issues in different states, I was not physically present in Manipur.”

> **“Currently, even the internet is jammed there, and people are not able to connect well. I’m trying to raise funds** -Rohan Philem

He noted that the situation is very bad. And since he reached Bengaluru, he wanted to create awareness and highlight that people in Manipur need help. “Right now, even the internet is jammed there, and people are not able to connect well. I’m trying to raise funds and send them to the organisation I know in Manipur that can help the citizens there,” he explained.

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STORYBEHINDTHEPHOTO

WARM SHADES

A captivating sunset in Bengaluru

The picture was clicked by BM reader **Sivakumar Viswanathan**

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Should Bengaluru get on board aggregator scheme?

Experts discuss if it is time to bring in bus aggregator scheme in city

Rachana Ramesh
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TWEETS @BangaloreMirror

The Delhi government has approved a premium bus aggregator scheme that allows residents to book a bus seat through a mobile application. The move hopes to encourage citizens to switch from private vehicles to public transportation. Activists in the city believe that it is an experiment worth trying in Bengaluru.

According to the Delhi Motor Vehicles Licensing of Aggregator (Premium Buses) Scheme, 2023, private operators will provide the service. However, they must abide by regulations set by the transport department.

Ashwin Mahesh, a mobility expert, said, "Buses are good as they carry more people and reduce the number of private vehicles. The government can be of the view that it will take care of all the services itself, or it will enable others to do so too. In my opinion, it is not wrong to do both." Mahesh noted that the Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) is currently running only around 5,000 buses while the fleet required to sustain the city's population is around 12,000. "The government needs to answer the question of who can fill this gap quickly. States must adopt a policy of using the private sector to meet goals that fall within public needs," he said.

He also pointed out that the initiative has been tried out in Bengaluru before with ZipGo, an app-based bus service provider, garnering a positive response from commuters.

Dr Ashish Verma, Convenor at IISc Sustainable Transportation Lab, said that it is an experiment worth trying. "We can't say how successful it will turn out to be as everything depends on commute patterns and requirements. Before we jump the gun, it is best to wait and see the experience and results from the implementation in Delhi. It potentially sounds interesting and useful, but we need evidence – a good impact assessment that will show how well it has served the purpose," he explained.

On the other hand, Avinash Chanchal, a public transport enthusiast, said that while the scheme has a positive motive to encourage public transport, it will only serve a privileged set of the population, leaving out the larger masses. He noted that Delhi has close to 3-4 million bus users and currently runs on 7,400 buses, while the requirement is around 13,800 buses.

"Delhi also has metro services, but half of the households in the city (49 per cent) cannot afford the fare of the metro. Their daily commute budget is Rs 10-20, while an average metro ride costs Rs 50. This shows that they cannot even afford the bus services, let alone book them through aggregators," he said, adding that private players are being promoted to support the privileged.

According to experts, BMTC is currently running only 5,000 buses

DID YOU KNOW?

Bengaluru-based rapper Vighnesh Shivanand, also known as Brodha V, is one of the most popular rappers in the country. He started rapping at the age of 18. He is known to have given the best performances and was featured in the list of the top ten Indian hip-hop artists by ScoopWhoop. He has worked with many other popular artists like Raghu Dixit, Vishal Dadlani, Benny Dayal, and more. He was also considered 'hip-hop's elite' by Rolling Stone. Some of his works include Aigiri Nandini under Sony Music, Aathma Raama, and After Party. His stage name stands for brotherhood, and the initial for his name is Vighnesh.

GET HEARD WITH MIRROR

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Let's see how much you know about Namma Bengaluru, folks. Tell us something incredible and mind-boggling about this beautiful city and our editors and researchers will check it out. If it's credible, we'll give it a shout-out, with your name and picture.

TAPTHECHATTER

where Bengalureans speak their mind

Tell us about all the action taken in your neighbourhood for monsoon readiness.

Sarvamangala, BM Reader
Taking care of clay pot plants in the terrace garden is necessary, especially during the rainy season. Heavy rain can affect the growth of plants. The terrace garden can be covered by installing a gazebo covered by plastic sheets and glass roofing. This method helps in extreme rainy or sunny weather conditions.

Prashanth Suri, BM Reader
During the monsoon season, heavy rainfall can cause water logging because there are no proper channels for water to flow. So to avoid this situation, the local administration should plan for the cleaning of open and closed drainage.

BS Murali, BM Reader
A bituminous road's life span cannot be guaranteed during heavy rain or the movement of heavily loaded trucks; all this can damage the road by creating potholes.

Annapurna Srinivas, BM Reader
Most of the restaurants in cities cover food items placed out front in stalls to maintain hygiene and protect them from insects on rainy days. People should also be aware of general cleanliness and hygiene, like not eating food that is left uncovered and washing their hands before eating.

Kadur Krishnamurthy, BM Reader
A special task force should be arranged by BBMP officials to handle area-wise complaints by deploying the task force. Awareness programmes should be conducted regarding the spreading of infectious diseases like cholera, malaria in the rainy season. Proper disinfectant sprays should be used to keep the city clean and healthy.

Vani Sudhakar, BM Reader
People should clean their homes and clear out any clutter and debris. Before the monsoon begins, local authorities should make sure to clean sewage lines and manholes.

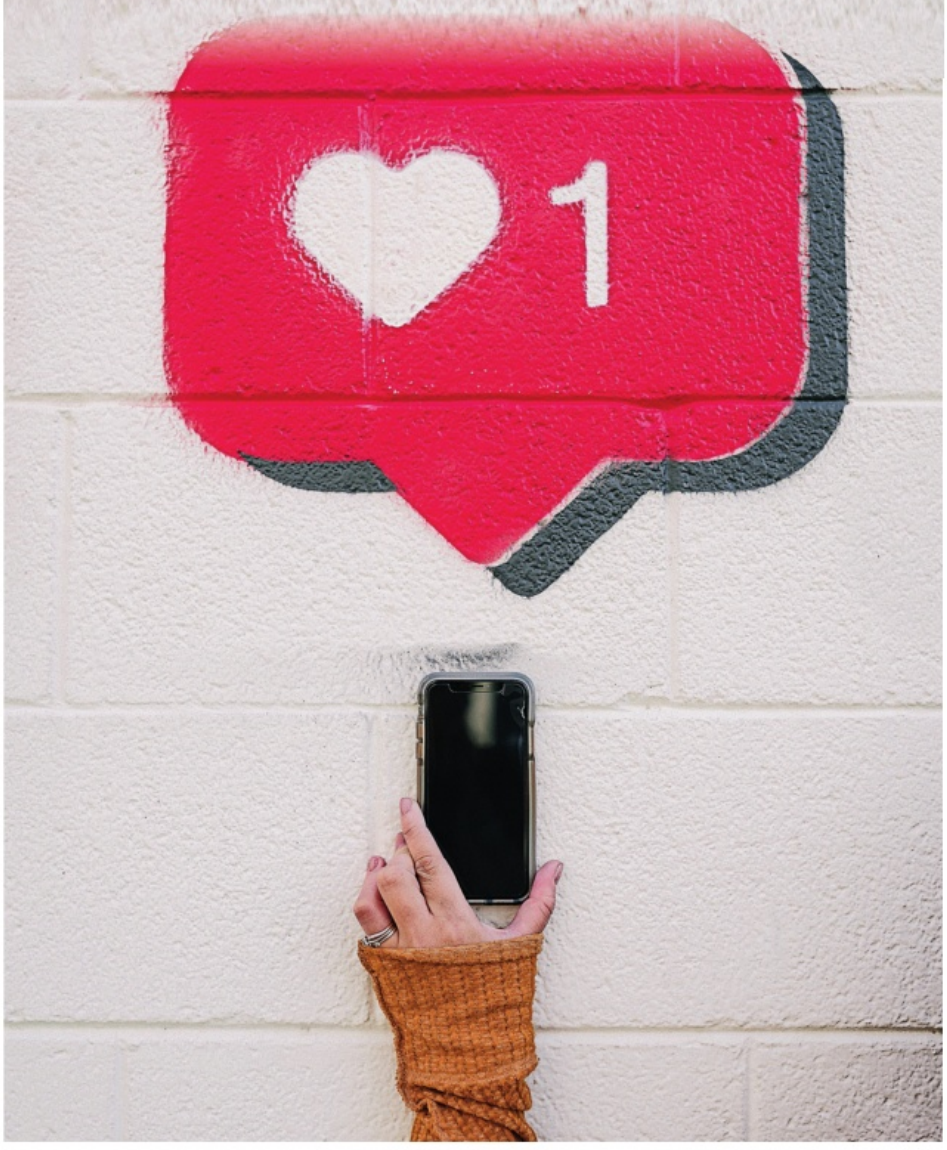
SPEAK TO US

How do you incorporate eco-friendly practices into your gardening routine?

If you want to be featured in this section, mail us your answer to this question, in 25 words, with 'Tap The Chatter' in the subject line. Mail us with your name, occupation & a picture at mybangaloremirror@timesgroup.com or WhatsApp us on 9591233247

FEED ME

Ways to take control of social media algorithms, get content you actually want



Whether it's Facebook's News Feed or Instagram's explore page, social media algorithms are constantly making behind-the-scenes decisions to boost certain content – giving rise to the "curated" feeds we've all become accustomed to. But does anyone actually know how these algorithms work? And, more importantly, is there a way to "game" them to see more of the content you want?

Optimised engagement

In broader computing terms, an algorithm is simply a set of rules that specifies a particular computational procedure.

In a social media context, algorithms (specifically "recommender algorithms") determine everything from what you're likely to read, to whom you're likely to follow, to whether a specific post appears in front of you.

Their main goal is to sustain your attention for as long as possible, in a process called "optimising for engagement". The more you engage with content on a platform, the more effectively that platform can commodify your attention and target you with ads: its main revenue source.

One of the earliest social media feed algorithms came from Facebook in the mid-2000s. It can be summarised in one sentence:

"Sort all of the user's friend updates – including photos, statuses and more – in reverse chronological order (newer posts first)."

Since then, algorithms have become much more powerful and nuanced. They now take myriad factors into consideration to determine how content is promoted. For instance, Twitter's "For You" recommendation algorithm is based on a neural network that uses about 48 million parameters!

A black box

Imagine a hypothetical user named Basil who follows users and pages that primarily discuss space, dog memes, and cooking. Social media algorithms might give Basil recommendations for T-shirts featuring puppies dressed as astronauts. Although this might seem simple, algorithms are typically "black boxes" that have their inner workings hidden. It's in the interests of tech companies to keep the recipe for their "secret sauce", well, a secret.

Trying to "game" an algorithm is like trying to solve a 3D box puzzle without any instructions and without being able to peer inside. You can only use trial-and-error – manipulating the pieces you see on the outside, and gauging the effects on the overall state of the box.

Even when an algorithm's code is revealed to the public – such as when Twitter released the source code for its recommender algorithm in March – it's not enough to bend them to one's will. Between the sheer complexity of the code, constant tweaks by developers, and the presence of arbitrary design choices (such as explicitly tracking Elon Musk's tweets), any claims of being able to perfectly "game" an algorithm should be taken with a pinch of salt.

So what can you do?

That said, there are some ways you can try to curate your social media to serve you better.

Since algorithms are powered by your data and social media habits, a good first step is to change these habits and data – or at least understand how they may be shaping your online experience.

1. Engage with content you trust and want

Regardless of the kind of feed you want to create, it's important to follow reliable sources. Basil, who is fascinated by space, knows they would do well to follow NASA and steer clear of users who believe the Moon is made of cheese.

Think critically about the accounts you follow, asking questions such as Who is the author of this content? Do they have authority in this topic? Might they have a bias, or an agenda?

The higher the quality of the content you engage with, the more likely it is that you'll be recommended similarly valuable content (rather than fake news or nonsense).

Also, you can play to the ethos of "optimising for engagement" by engaging more (and for longer) with the kind of content you want to be recommended. That means liking and sharing it, and actively seeking out similar posts.

2. Be stingy with info

Secondly, you can be parsimonious in providing your data to platforms. Social media companies know more about you than you think – from your location, to your perceived interests, to your activities outside the app, and even the activities and interests of your social circle!

If you limit the information you provide about yourself, you limit the extent to which the algorithm can target you. It helps to keep your different social media accounts unlinked, and to avoid using the "Login with Facebook" or "Login with Google" options when signing up for a new account.

3. Use your settings

Adjusting your privacy and personalisation settings will further help you avoid being micro-targeted through your feed. The "Off-Facebook Activity" setting allows you to break the link between your Facebook account and your activities outside of Facebook. Similar options exist for Twitter. Ad blockers and privacy-enhancing browser add-ons can help. These tools, such as the open-source uBlock Origin and Privacy Badger, help prevent cookies and marketing pixels from "following" your browsing habits as you move between websites.

4. Get (dis)engaged

A final piece of advice is to simply disengage with content you don't want in your feed. This means: ignoring any posts you aren't a fan of, or "hiding" them if possible taking mindful breaks to avoid "doomscrolling" regularly revising who you follow, and making sure this list coincides with what you want from your feed.

– By Marc Cheong, University of Melbourne (The Conversation)

BITS & BYTES

TESLA'S GAIN?

Elon Musk's selection of a new CEO for Twitter may remove a big distraction for the billionaire and allow him to focus more on Tesla Inc, which has been struggling with a drop in demand for its electric vehicles, analysts said. "This is a fractional positive for Tesla shareholders because he will likely spend a little bit more time on Tesla," said Gene Munster, Managing Partner at Deepwater Asset Management. "However, there are other things that are competing for his time."

Musk said on Thursday he had found a new CEO for Twitter, without naming the person. **Reuters**

WATCH ON GOOGLE

India's competition watchdog said it has begun an inquiry into allegations that the service fee charged for in-app payments by Google breaches an earlier antitrust directive, a regulatory order seen by Reuters showed on Friday

Tinder-owner Match Group and Indian startups have asked the watchdog to investigate Google's new User Choice Billing (UCB) system, which they alleged was anti-competitive.

The Competition Commission of India (CCI) on Friday issued an order stating "it is of the opinion that an inquiry needs to be made." The order is not public and Google did not respond. **Reuters**

META JUMPS ON AI BUS

Social media giant Meta Platforms Inc joined the generative AI product race on Thursday, saying it would begin testing artificial intelligence-powered ad tools that can create content like image backgrounds and variations of written text.

A select group of advertisers will be invited to experiment with the tools in a "testing playground" that the company is calling the AI Sandbox, Meta executives said at a press event in New York.

The executives declined to specify how many advertisers would have access to the space at the outset, saying only that the group was small. **Reuters**

Planted saplings, got green haven

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

in 2009. The NGO was into distributing saplings free of cost.

"I was their first volunteer and we used to go from house to house and ask the house owners if we could plant a sapling in front of their house. Most would deny it and only some would agree," said Alberts.

While Alberts planted 60 saplings, only 40 survived. The senior citizen laments that 20 saplings were pulled out by some miscreants or some of the grown-up trees were removed by house owners who started construction on their plots.

"I had to look after the saplings during the first year of the plantation. Later, it was more about persuading people to retain the trees as many plot owners started constructing houses on the stretch. However, many trees were removed during the construction phase to make way for heavy vehicles

to move around. Many times, I would hear the sound of a chainsaw and run out to stop them from axing the trees, but the damage would be done by then," recalled Alberts adding that those who cut trees should be severely punished.

"Hundreds saplings were planted by various authorities on other roads in the area. However, the majority of them were damaged or later cut. This will continue unless the offenders, whether citizens or real estate mafia, are severely punished. Many apartment complexes with commercial spaces have come up in the vicinity and the first thing they do is to remove the trees. However, today, a large group of people are conscious about the green cover and protecting it too," added Alberts.

4 killed as heavy rain continues to lash K'taka

Heavy rain, lightning and thunderstorms claimed four lives in Karnataka during the last 24 hours.

Lightning killed two persons while two others died after an uprooted tree fell on a moving autorickshaw.

The death of two persons, including a woman, due to lightning came to light in Maddur taluk of Mandya district on Friday.

The deceased have been identified as 34-year-old Madhu, a resident of Vaidyanathapura village and 60-year-old Gowramma, a resident of Shivapura village.

According to authorities, Madhu was standing under a tree late on Thursday night to take shelter from heavy rain, when the lightning struck him. He was returning home after dropping his wife at her parents' residence.

In another incident, Gowramma collapsed at her house when lightning struck very close to her place. She was rushed to the hospital immediately but doctors declared her dead.

Puspa Kulal (45), a resident of Paduru Kuralu and Krishna (48), a resident of Kalatturu died on the spot after a huge tree fell on the auto they were travelling in on Thursday night. The driver Sharif escaped without injuries in the incident. The vehicle, which came under the tree, was completely damaged.

The authorities have stated that the incessant heavy rain was the reason for the tree fall. The heavy rain has disrupted life throughout the state. –IANS

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CHANGE OF NAME
I, PRATHAP A.P. # 10, Venkataswamappa Lane, Upparahalli, Chikkamavalli, Bangalore-04, Changed my minor son's name from VIRAAT A.P. to VIRAT A.P. vide affidavit dated 04.05.2023 Bangalore Notary R. Basavaraja.

I Chandra N S/O of late C.Natarajan staying at 80 Rainbow Drive Sarjapur Road have changed my name to Chandar Natarajan vide affidavit dated 12/05/2023 before notary K.V.S.Mani for correction in my driving licence.

I Vigneswaran R S/O, Ramaiah R/o No 349 1st Floor 7th Cross 2nd A Main Domlur Layout Banglore 560071 have changed my name to A R Vignesvaran

IT is for general information that Jyothi Rajiv D/o Late Hulgundi Rangaswamy Anantharam and Ex. wife of Rajiv Srinivas, R/o #307/A-1, 10th Main 1st Cross, Gururaja Layout, BSK 3rd Stage 4th Phase 7th Block, Bangalore South, Banashankari III Stage Bangalore, Karnataka-560085, declare that I got divorce from my husband Rajiv Srinivas vide court decree No. M.C. No. 5177/2018 dated 20.08.2019. Further, I have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Jyothi Anantharam.

MY Daughter, Y.Varsha, Daughter of Thiru C. Yuvaraj and Thirumathi K.Lavanya Born on 14th March 2016 (Distrcit of Birth:Chennai), Currently Residing at Ramya Habitat Apartments, Door No 103, Seegehalli Main Road, Seegehalli, Bangalore-560067 Shall Henceforth Be Known as Y. Anu Varsha

I, Vasudev Krishna S/o Krishna Rao Basappa aged about 69 years R/at No.59/1, Viviani Road, Frazer Town, B'luru-560005 have changed my name to Vasudev Krishna Ghodke Vide Affidavit Dtd:11/05/2023 Sworn Before Notary Uday Kumar K, B'luru

I, Sapna Ashok Melwani W/o Chander Mohan Singh R/o #756, 2nd Floor, 5th Cross, Rangappa Layout, hosakere - halli, Kathriguppe, Bangalore 560085 have changed my name to Sapna Kaur for all purposes.

I, Shwetha Prasad Bangalore W/O, Abhilash R R/o 79, Khushi, 4th Cross, Sri Sai Garden Layout, Behind Chiguru Hospital Road, Rajanakunte, Bangalore 560064 have changed my name to Shwetha Abhilash for all purposes.

I, Santhosh John Fernandes residing at Gundabala, Honnavar, Mutta, Uttara Kannada, Karnataka-583161 have changed my name to SANTOSH FERNANDES vide affidavit dated: 09.05.2023 Sworn before notary: H.K.Gopala Gowda, Bangalore

I, Padmavathi W/o Vasudev Krishna Ghodke aged about 61 years R/at No.59/1, Viviani Road, Frazer Town, Bluru-560005 have changed my name to Padmavathi Vasudev Ghodke Vide Affidavit Dtd:11/05/2023 Sworn Before Notary Uday Kumar K, B'luru

I Sunandamma Patta - bhiramaiah W/o Srinivasa Gobblipura Subbramhai R/o #234 , 10th A Main Road HRBR Layout , B'lore-560043 have changed my name to Sunandamma Pattabiramhai.

LOST & FOUND

12TH Pass Certificate has been lost. Name: Vishal Sharma, UID: 6466819, Index: 2193034, Year: 2019, School: St. Vincent Pallotti School.

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SANJANA M 598 (95.68)
KRUTHIKA G 592 (94.72)
NIHARIKA T S 588 (94.08)
VIKAS KUMAR N 588 (94.08)
PRAVEEN SHARMA 588 (94.08)
ROHAN PANDEY 586 (93.76)
PRACHI K SHARMA 585 (93.60)
AARYAN R 582 (93.12)
INCHARA B 582 (93.12)
NAMRATHA SURESH 580 (92.80)
JAGADISH CHOUDHARY 580 (92.80)
V DHARNISH 578 (92.48)
SANIKA SUNIL BANSODE 577 (92.32)
LALITH B SEERVI 574 (91.84)
AMRUTH RAJ T 573 (91.68)
VANDANA J 571 (91.36)
ANJU REENA 569 (91.04)
NIHAL GOWDA 569 (91.04)
KPRUTHJRAJ D M 567 (90.72)
CHAITHANYA J 565 (90.40)
NIKHIL KUMAR S L 564 (90.24)

HEALTH TIP: To improve your sleep hygiene, maintain a consistent sleep schedule and avoid caffeine and alcohol before bedtime

Facial massage can help improve blood circulation, relax muscles, and promote lymphatic drainage, all of which can contribute to healthier-looking skin

SOMEONE LIKE YOU

Why do we fall for particular people?

Even the shortest of ties can sometimes lead to the deepest bonds in life. Like when you attend a party and run into someone wearing the T-shirt of your favourite band.

We tend to prefer people who are similar to us; this phenomenon is known as the similarity-attraction effect. New research from Boston University has now uncovered one of the causes.

Charles Chu, an assistant professor of management and organisations at the BU Questrom School of Business, studied the factors that influence how attracted or turned off we are by one another in a number of studies. He discovered that self-essentialist thinking, where people believe they have a deep inner core or essence that shapes who they are, was a key determinant. Chu found that when someone believes an essence drives their interests, likes, and dislikes, they presume the same is true for others as well. If they locate someone with a single similar interest, they anticipate that person will share their larger worldview.

"If we had to come up with an image of our sense of self, it would be this nugget, an almost magical core inside that emanates out and causes what we can see and observe about people and ourselves," says Chu. "We argue that believing people have an underlying essence allows us to assume or infer that when we see someone who shares a single characteristic, they must share my entire deeply rooted essence, as well."

But Chu's research suggests this rush to embrace an indefinable, fundamental similarity with someone because of one or two shared interests may be based on flawed thinking--and that it could restrict who we find a connection with. Working alongside the pull of the similarity-attraction effect is a countering push: we dislike those who we don't think are like us, often because of one small thing--they like that politician, band, book, or TV show we loathe.

"We are all so complex," says Chu. "But we only have full insight into our own thoughts and feelings, and the minds of others are often a mystery to us. What this work suggests is that we often fill in the blanks of others' minds with our own sense of self and that can sometimes lead us into some unwarranted assumptions."

Understanding Others

To examine why we're attracted to some people and not to others, Chu set up four studies, each designed to tease out different aspects of how we make friends--or foes.

In the first study, participants were told about a fictional person, Jamie, who held either complementary or contradictory attitudes toward them. After asking participants their views on one of five topics--abortion, capital punishment, gun ownership, animal testing, and physician-assisted suicide--Chu asked how they felt about Jamie, who either agreed or disagreed with them on the target issue. Chu found the more a participant believed their view of the world was shaped by an essential core, the more they felt connected to Jamie who shared their views on one issue.

In a second study, he looked at whether that effect persisted when the target topics were less substantive. Rather than digging into whether people agreed with Jamie on something as divisive as abortion, Chu asked participants to estimate the number of blue dots on a page, then categorized them--and the fictional Jamie--as over- or under-estimators. Even with this slim connection, the findings held: the more someone believed in an essential core, the closer they felt to Jamie as a fellow over- or under-estimator.

"I found that both with pretty meaningful dimensions of similarity as well as with arbitrary, minimal similarities, people who are higher in their belief that they have an essence are more likely to be attracted to these similar others as opposed to dissimilar others," says Chu.

In two companion studies, Chu began disrupting this process of attraction, stripping out the influence of self-essentialist reasoning. In one experiment, he labelled attributes (such as liking a certain painting) as either essential or nonessential; in another, he told participants that using their essence to judge someone else could lead to an inaccurate assessment of others.

"It breaks this essentialist reasoning process, it cuts off people's ability to assume that what they're seeing is reflective of a deeper similarity," says Chu. "One way I did that was to remind people that this dimension of similarity is actually not connected or related to your essence at all; the other way was by telling people that using their essence as a way to understand other people is not very effective."

Negotiating Psychology and Politics at Work

Chu says there's a key tension in his findings that shape their application in the real world. On the one hand, we're all searching for our community--it's fun to hang out with people who share our hobbies and interests, love the same music and books as us, and don't disagree with us on politics. "This type of thinking is a really useful, heuristic psychological strategy," says Chu. "It allows people to see more of themselves in new people and strangers." But it also excludes people, and sets up divisions and boundaries--sometimes on the flimsiest of grounds.

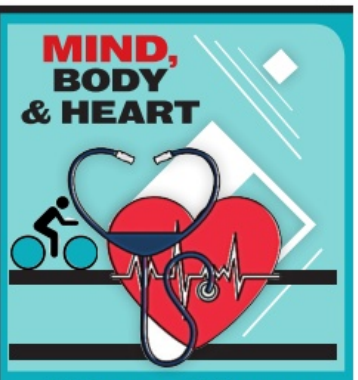
"When you hear a single fact or opinion being expressed that you either agree or disagree with, it really warrants taking an additional breath and just slowing down," he says. "Not necessarily taking that single piece of information and extrapolating on it, using this type of thinking to go to the very end, that this person is fundamentally good and like me or fundamentally bad and not like me."

Chu, whose background mixes the study of organisational behaviour and psychology, teaches classes on negotiation at Questrom and says his research has plenty of implications in the business world, particularly when it comes to making deals.

"I define negotiations as conversations, and agreements and disagreements, about how power and resources should be distributed between people," he says. "What inferences do we make about the other people we're having these conversations with? How do we experience and think about agreement versus disagreement? How do we interpret when someone gets more and someone else gets less? These are all really central questions to the process of negotiation."

> **There are ways for us to go through life and meet other people, and form impressions of other people, without constantly referencing ourselves**

There are ways for us to go through life and meet other people, and form impressions of other people, without constantly referencing ourselves, he says. "If we're constantly going around trying to figure out, who's like me, who's not like me? That's not always the most productive way of trying to form impressions of other people. People are a lot more complex than we give them credit for." —ANI



All problems solved

Dear Coleen

I'm a woman in my 20s and I moved into a flat a few months ago with another girl who I didn't know that well. We'd always got along, though, and it was lucky we were both looking for a place at the same time.
My problem is, I hate the way she behaves around my boyfriend, but it feels really awkward to bring it up with her.
When she first met him I was pleased they got along. But she shows way too much interest in him. She's always asking when he's next coming to visit and, when he's there, she flirts really heavily and wears skimpy outfits.
One day she even came out of her bedroom in her underwear. My boyfriend has never said anything, although he did look embarrassed.
I've never been in this situation before and don't know what to do about it. I don't want to fall out with her so she moves out and I'm left to pay the rent on my own.

COLEEN SAYS

Well, some people have no inhibitions, but I'd say they're in the minority and of course I understand why this makes you feel awkward when your boyfriend is around.
I'd just say that while you admire her confidence, you feel it's inappropriate when other people are there, including your boyfriend, and it makes you feel a bit uncomfortable. You don't have to be mean about it and could even have a laugh about it: "You look great, but please put a robe on!"
If she's offended and wants to move out then you'll find another flatmate.
I'm pretty sure she'd have to give notice which would give you time to find someone or something else.
But try not to make too big a deal out of it, especially if your boyfriend isn't making it an issue either.
She might be a little insecure and looking for validation.

—Coleen Nolan, Daily Mirror

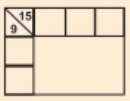
mybangaloremirror@timesgroup.com
facebook.com/theBangaloremirror
@BangaloreMirror

SOLVE IT IN A MINUTE

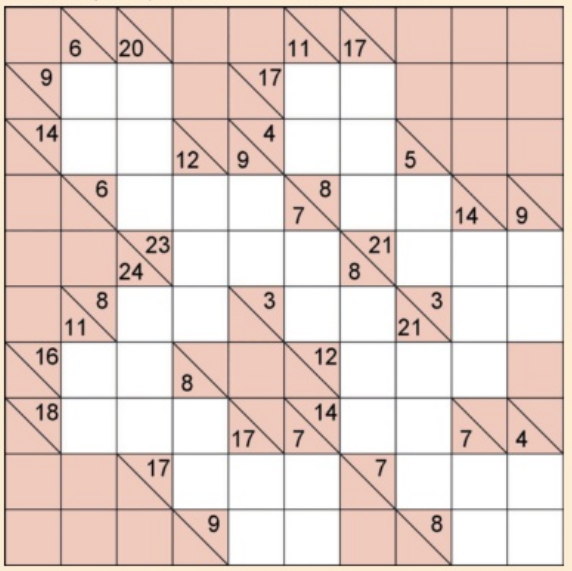
How many non-leap years would it take to make 100,000,000 phone calls @ 5 minutes per call?

Kakuro

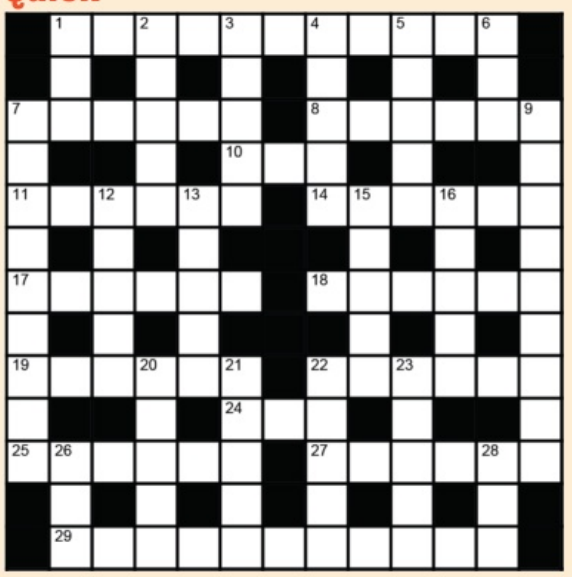
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

1 Stockpiled, hoarded or saved (11)
7 Implanted items (6)
8 Ascend or come forth (6)
10 Resistance unit (3)
11 SI unit of force (6)
14 Performing on stage (6)
17 Lease (6)
18 More ostentatious (6)
19 Pattern of small tiles (6)
22 Popular F1 venue (6)
24 Anger (3)
25 Mighty (6)
27 European river (6)
29 Performed with restraint (11)

DOWN

1 Bristle (3)
2 Moved stealthily (5)
3 Stone worker (5)
4 Peruvian quadruped (5)
5 Form into a spiral (5)
6 Pass away (3)
7 Simpleton (9)
9 National park home to many tigers and elephants (9)
12 Forty ___ : a short sleep? (5)
13 Muscat native (5)
15 Unusual item (5)
16 Mediterranean isle (5)
20 Evade (5)
21 Roll of tobacco leaves (5)
22 Military decoration (5)
23 Governess (5)
26 Greek letter (3)
28 New rose (3)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: K EQUALS O

JLWBLRB EBBCJLS WKK KEWBL KDRZHNBR WIB WNHWI.

Linemaro

I want to ask god t o stop the moon and make this night and your b eauty l ast forever

Mindchow

Unlike your mouth, your ears will never get you in trouble

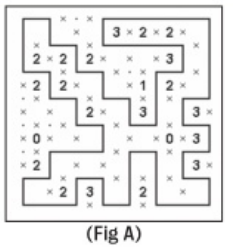
Joke of the day

Pupil: I don't think I deserve the zero you gave for my paper. Teacher: Neither do I, but that was the lowest I could give

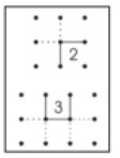
Loop

Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.



(Fig A)

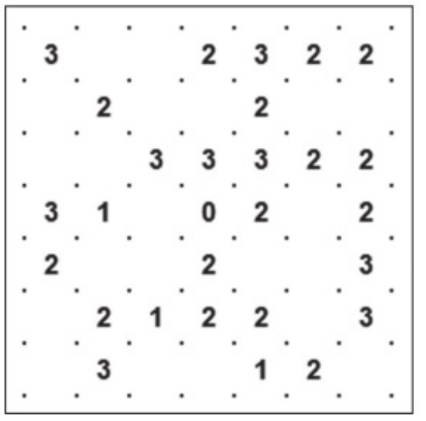


(Fig B) Not Allowed

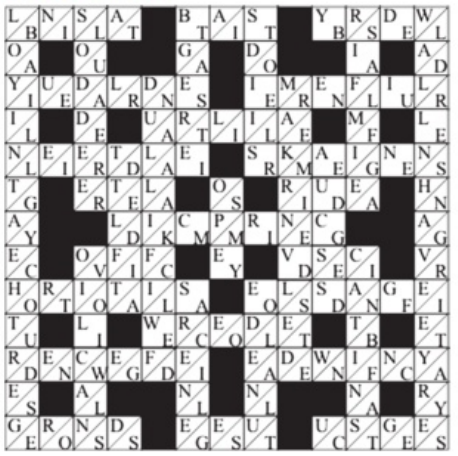
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



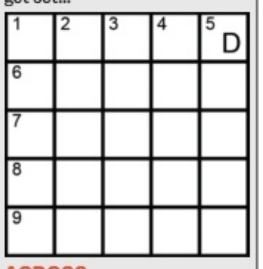
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

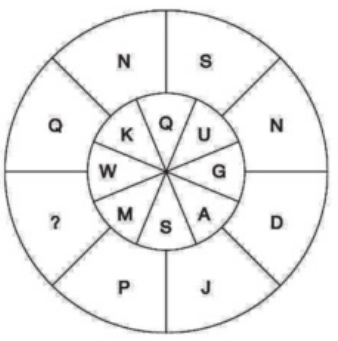
1 Trade; 6 A alum; 7 In MIB; 8 Suave; 9 Pryer

DOWN

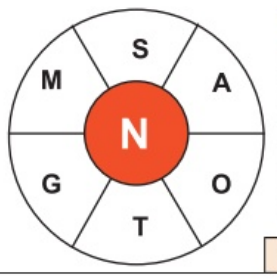
1 Up urn (3-2); 2 Evil a; 3 A term; 4 Bream; 5 Id Say

Mensapuzzle

What letter should replace the question mark?



Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

09 Average; **10** Good; **12** Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

9	2							6
		7		8	9	2	3	
		8		6				
3		9			8	7		
			4		1			
		1	2			4		3
				1		3		
	1	2	3	7		9		
7							8	1

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 28

6 7 7 8

Medium = 4

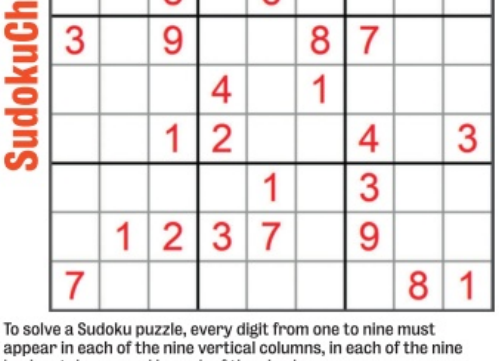
1 3 6 6

Hard = 27

1 4 7 2

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.



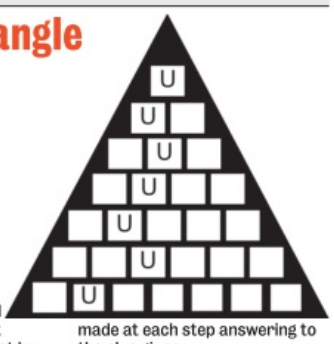
Differences: 1. Light is not as wide. 2. Collar is smaller. 3. Doctor has more hair. 4. Window is not as wide. 5. Diploma is higher. 6. Book on desk is moved.

Riddler

Fill in the sentence below so that the first two words combine to make the third word. For example, given "The prime minister ____ the meeting, even though the _____ was technically the _____ official," you would fill in RAN, KING, and RANKING. I ___ so ___ to his antics that I am no longer ___ by them.

Alpha triangle

1 A type of turn
2 ____ and them
3 Prosecute
4 Machination
5 Monetary award
6 Puritans
7 Chased

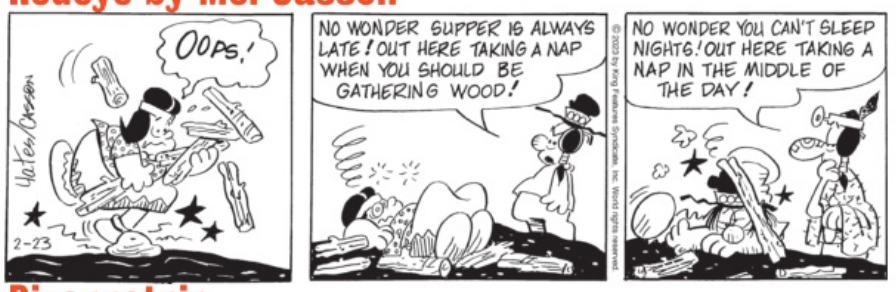


Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Redeye by Mel Casson


OOPS!
NO WONDER SUPPER IS ALWAYS LATE! OUT HERE TAKING A NAP WHEN YOU SHOULD BE GATHERING WOOD!
NO WONDER YOU CAN'T SLEEP NIGHTS! OUT HERE TAKING A NAP IN THE MIDDLE OF THE DAY!

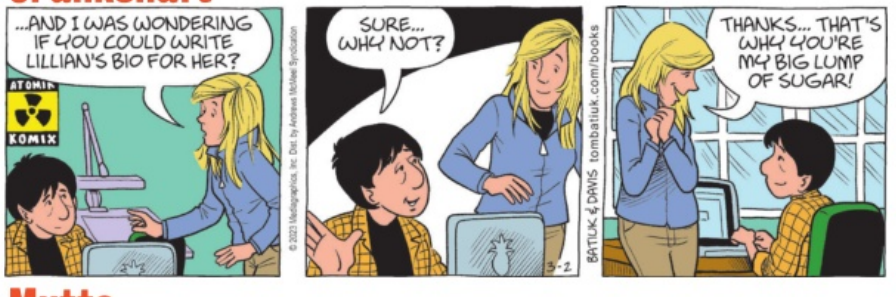
Bizarrotrip

Diamond Lil

Hart of the city

WHY DO I FEEL SO TIIIIRRREEEDD?
HAVE YOU BEEN DRINKING ENOUGH WATER?
UH, NOT REALLY. IT TAKES SO MUCH EFFORT! FINDING A GLASS, FILLING THE GLASS WITH WATER, DRINKING THE WATER.
HOW ABOUT I BUY YOU A WATER BOTTLE? WILL THAT ENCOURAGE YOU?
SHOPPING IS ALWAYS ENCOURAGING!

Crankshaft



Mutts

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today, you are advised to control your straightforwardness. Your loose talk may affect the people around you. You may spend your hard-earned money on buying some worthless stuff. Your mind may work very fast, so it is advised to make any important decision with patience.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Today, you may be able to complete difficult tasks very easily. This may boost your confidence levels. Your past investments may pay you good gains. You are advised to avoid arguments on worthless topics as it may waste your precious time.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today, you may feel dull and have some health issues. You are advised to postpone making investments in your business and not start any new ventures as you are likely to face losses. Your gains may convert into losses.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Today, you are blessed by the moon, which may make you happy. The crunch from the last day is now over, and with the help of blessings, you may get reciprocation for your hard work. With the help of your subordinates, you may be able to initiate your postponed work. There are some gains in your business, which may boost your finances.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today, you may be more enthusiastic. Your performance at work may be good, which may boost your relationship with your seniors, and you may likely get some new responsibilities in terms of promotions. In legal matters, you may hear good news, and your opponents and hidden enemies may be under control.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today, your destiny may help you to get success in an easy way. You may likely visit some spiritual place to seek peace of mind. You may spend your time earning some intellectual or occult knowledge. Students may likely do better, and singles will likely find a good match. Love birds may take some important decisions in terms of marriage.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today, you may feel dull and have some health issues. Old debts may make you upset, and you will be a victim of self-criticism. You will feel guilty about silly mistakes. It is advised to avoid adventure tours and rush driving, and your stubbornness may create some issues in your personal life.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today, you will be happy, and you may feel peace in your mind. Your focus towards your goals would be very good, and you may likely have a romantic moment with your spouse. Your bonding with your spouse may be stronger now, and you will also be busy with other domestic issues.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today, you may be busy at work, and with the help of your strong network, you may be able to implement your plans successfully. Your wisdom may help you to gain profits in past investments. You may enjoy your romantic moments with your spouse, which will increase harmony in your domestic life. Love birds may enjoy their happy moments.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today, you may take decisions very fast, which may give benefits in day-to-day life. You may also plan for higher studies to groom your career. Kids may also keep you busy. Property-related disputes between siblings may likely be resolved. You may also expect some work-related short trips.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today is not good, and you may feel unhappy and dissatisfied with your current situation. You are advised to keep patience and should not take any decision in a hurry. You are advised to take care of your parents.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today, you are blessed by the moon, and disappointment from the last couple of days may now convert into happiness. You may enjoy professional and personal life, and your network may help you to complete your postponed projects. You may likely start some new ventures with the help of your siblings, and your network may support you in every step.

KIDZONE

Likith Gowda HS, 14 years, SMVN School

Kaveri Sriram, 9 yeras, Valistus International School

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No.4, KSCCF Compound, Pampa Maha Kavi Road, Chamrajpet, Bengaluru 560 018; Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
5-10-8/(60-24-365) = 951.2937595l3 years

RIDDLER
I AM so USED to his antics that I am no longer AMUSED by them.

QUOTE UNCODE
Intense feeling too often obscures the truth.

FAST FIVE

R	A	T	E	D
U	L	A	M	A
U	V	E	A	S
N	I	M	B	I
P	E	R	R	Y

BULL'S EYE
among, AMONGST, angst, gnat, mango, mason, moan, sang, snag, song, tango, tong

STRIKE OUT

QUICK

MENSA PUZZLE
R: the letter on the outside is positioned midway between its two adjacent letters on the inside, in the alphabet.

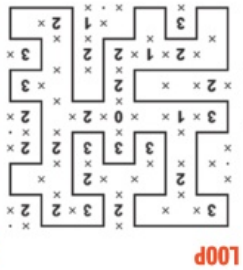
SUDOKU

9	2	5	1	4	3	8	7	6
1	6	7	5	8	9	2	3	4
4	3	8	9	6	2	1	5	9
3	4	9	6	5	8	7	1	2
2	7	6	4	3	1	5	9	8
6	9	4	8	1	5	3	2	7
5	8	1	2	9	7	4	6	3
8	1	2	3	7	6	9	4	5
7	5	3	9	2	4	6	8	1

ALPHA TRIANGLE
U, Us, Sue, Ruse, Purse, Prudes, Pursued.

GO FIGURE
Easy
7 + 8 + 6 + 7 = 28
Medium
6 / 6 + 3 x 1 = 4
Hard
4 x 7 + 1 - 2 = 27

LOOP



KAKURO

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 # Ali in Rome for grand premiere
Actor Ali Fazal is all set to attend the grand international premiere of the upcoming action film 'Fast X' in Rome alongside stars Vin Diesel and Jason Momoa

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Memories of a photoshoot

Kriti Sanon recollects modelling days and how she gets better with each mistake

Kriti Sanon recently opened up about her modelling days. The actress even recalled being extremely nervous for her first photoshoot. Kriti shared with a news portal that her mother is a professor, and she was the first woman in her family to work. And according to her, being the firstborn, she took up the responsibility of setting an example. Following which, she always felt the need to be really good at whatever she does. According to her she is a perfectionist.

Recalling an incident, Kriti added that during her first photoshoot, she was very nervous. She said she didn't do so well and she went back home crying because it bothered her. The actress added that confidence can be built over time. She believes one can learn more from failures than they ever will from their successes. In fact, her mantra is to learn from her mistakes and move forward.

Kriti also went on to talk about her upcoming film, 'The Crew' where she will be sharing the screen space with Kareena Kapoor Khan and Tabu. Calling it an interesting project, Kriti said she is working with two amazing actors. The actress said she works with a lot of male actors, but to work with two leading ladies is a dream come true, and a lot of fun. **—ETimes**

Work, work, work

Tabu has been impressing the audience with her powerful performances in Bollywood movies since quite some time now. But back in the days, the actress has played some commendable roles in international films too. Be it The Namesake (2006) or Life Of Pi (2012) Tabu has managed to grab eyeballs in the award-winning movies.

Ask her why don't we see her work a lot more in international movies, and she says, "Well, there's a lot of work that does come my way, given that the showbiz has opened up (to world talent) now. It has always been that way for many years, but now it has opened even more. But I can't find that kind of time it will require for me to shoot these films. Also, because in the past 4-5 years I have worked so back-to-back that I haven't got a breather at all to think of anything else."

—Onkar Kulkarni, ETimes

Falling in love and falling out of it

PRESENT PRAPANCHA ZERO PERCENT LOVE
2.5 RATING ★★½☆☆
- **DIRECTOR** Abhiram
- **ACTORS** Arjun Manjunath, Sambrama Sree, Yashas Abhi, Akshatha, S Narayan, Tabala Nani
- **CERTIFICATION** U/A
- **CERTIFICATION** 131 minutes

An aura of tragedy looms around this film that lost its director Abhiram and hero Arjun Manjunath to coronavirus during the second wave of the covid-19 pandemic.

It's story begins with a director (Om Prakash Rao) discussing the script of a film at a pub with his friends. There they meet Akhil (Arjun Manjunath), a software engineer, who is unhappy about his marriage with Amrutha. They ask Akhil to tell them his story. We see how Akhil was leading a happy life with his parents when he meets Amrutha (Sambrama Sree) at a salon and they fall in love. She insists that she be allowed to work at a software company. But Amrutha develops suspicions about Akhil's friendship with Akshaya decides for file for divorce. They approach an advocate (S Narayan) who advises them to participate in a TV programme. Present Prapancha Zero Percent Love is all about what happens to the couple.

Though Arjun has tried his best, he looks stoic in action and romantic scenes. Sambrama Sree looks good and makes a point with her bold performance. Akshatha has done a good job an Yashas Abhi is convincing as a villain.

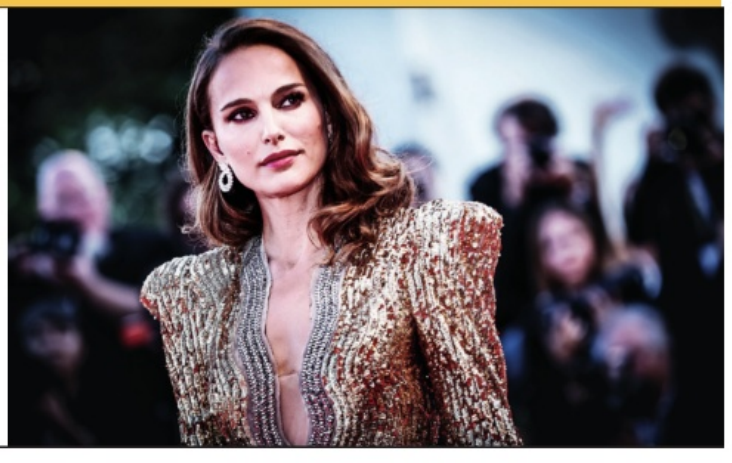
It is a pity to see veteran director Om Prakash Rao, known for handling megaphone for big-budget movies, playing such an insignificant character. He is always either yelling at someone or mouthing sleazy dialogues. S Narayan, who is also known for directing movies of Dr Rajkumar and Dr Vishnuvardhan, plays an advocate but looks far from convincing. Tabala Nani has provided good support playing an anchor on the TV show.

Abhiram has tried to show a slice of life of a software engineer couple, who fell in love at a great speed and opted for divorce at the drop of a hat. But, some of the scenes, especially the scene where the hero rescues Akshatha and the other one where Yashas enters Amrutha's house, are too weak. If the screenplay was crisper, the movie could have been better.

You can watch this film if you have no other plans.

—Y Maheswara Reddy

Live life, vegan style



Actress Natalie Portman hasn't purchased or "used any leather or fur or animal products in 20 years." The 'Star Wars' actress is passionate about a vegan lifestyle and is a prominent animal rights campaigner and as well as spurning garments created from animal products she no longer buys new clothes unless absolutely necessary, reports aceshowbiz.com.

"I haven't bought or used any leather or fur or animal products in 20 years. I buy vintage clothes, and only if absolutely necessary, and of course repair damaged items," she shared to The Hollywood Reporter.

She has been a vegetarian since she was nine years old and went vegan in 2011 after reading Jonathan Safran Foer's book 'Eating Animals'.

The 41-year-old actress is committed to passing on those values to her children, Aleph and Amalia, who she has with her husband Benjamin Millepied as well educating them about climate change. She added, "We talk about (climate change) a lot in our household in terms of how we live, what we choose to do. My veganism is in large part an environmental choice, along with animal welfare."

"The library plays a big role in the family consciousness too. It is a place where we can get joy and selection by sharing and not owning. It's a process, and clearly imperfect, but the consciousness is there." **— IANS**